

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Hirokazu Nishimura, et al. **Examiner:** Unassigned
Serial No: To be assigned **Art Unit:** Unassigned
Filed: Herewith **Docket:** 17529
For: ENDOSCOPE INSERTING
DIRECTION DETECTING METHOD
AND ENDOSCOPE INSERTING
DIRECTION DETECTING SYSTEM **Dated:** March 10, 2004

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,469,840, dated November 28, 1995, issued to Tanii et al.;
2. U.S. Patent No. 4,910,590, dated May 20, 1990, issued to Gillies et al.
3. U.S. Patent No. 4,916,533, dated April 10, 1990, issued to Gillies et al.;

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: March 10, 2004



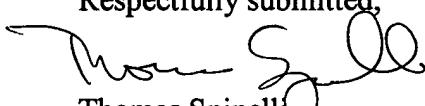
Thomas Spinelli

4. United Kingdom Patent Application No. GB 2 227 836 A, dated August 8, 1990;
5. United Kingdom Patent Application No. GB 2 225 188 A, dated May 23, 1990;
6. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 7-136109, published May 30, 1995 together with an English language abstract;
7. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2001-169998, published June 26, 2001 together with an English language abstract;
8. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 3-85134, published April 10, 1991 together with an English language abstract;
9. Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 2-182231, published July 16, 1990 together with an English language abstract;
10. Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 2-140134, published May 29, 1990 together with an English language abstract; and
11. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 5-211990, published August 24, 1993 together with an English language abstract.

The references were cited in a Search Report dated November 12, 2002 received from the Japanese Patent Office. Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references, together with a copy of the Search Report. The relevance of the above-identified references has been described in the Search Report.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				Docket Number (Optional) 17529		Application Number To be assigned		
				Applicant(s) Hirokazu Nishimura, et al.		Filing Date Herewith		Group Art Unit Unassigned
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
		2-182231	7/16/1990	Japan				
		2-140134	5/29/1990	Japan				
		5-211990	8/24/1993	Japan				
OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>								
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED				
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.								